



Wellington News

Easter 2024

Wellington Church, 77 Southpark Ave, Glasgow G12 8LE

Office: Tel: 01413390454

www.wellingtonchurch.co.uk

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MINISTER: Rev. Richard Baxter Mob: 079 585 41418 Email: RBaxter@churchofscotland.org.uk

ASSISTING MINISTER: Rev. Dr. Roger Sturrock Tel: 0141 286 8130 Mob: 07970 535358 Email: RSturrock@churchofscotland.org.uk



Welcome to all

Love one another, as I have loved you (John 15:12)

We welcome into the life and worship of our congregation people of every race, gender, background, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability.

We affirm our diversity and the dignity of each person.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Minister's letter:

Dear friends,

With Easter fast approaching, and spring already here, the signs of new life are apparent round about us.

It was great to share a celebration of 140 years of worship in Wellington at our special service in January when we welcomed the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton. Thanks are due to everyone who helped to make it a special occasion. It was a good beginning to our year of celebrations, as we welcomed friends and former colleagues from far and wide. The Conversation Corner recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with words of greeting from many parts of the globe, and more anniversaries lie ahead.

It's important that we are continually looking forward as well as celebrating the past, and a busy programme of Holy Week and Easter events is advertised elsewhere in this edition of Welly News, many to be shared with our neighbouring congregations. Meanwhile our Lenten appeal is well under way, as we seek to support the work of Refuweege, Crossreach and Embrace the Middle East, in their various areas of service locally, nationally and internationally.

We were sad to say farewell to our friends from the Emmanuel Ethiopian Evangelical Church who have now moved to other premises, but delighted to welcome Praying Hands Asian Fellowship who are shortly to commence worship in Wellington on Sunday afternoons, and we look forward to sharing with them in our morning worship once a month in future. Plans for our union with our neighbours at Kelvinbridge are also progressing well.

All these developments in our congregation's life reflect the story of where we have come from and the unfolding story of where we are going. We get ready to celebrate that greatest of all stories, which never grows old and continues to bring new life, the story of the passion, death

and resurrection of Jesus. I hope our Easter celebrations will be special for you.

May I wish you a very happy Easter, and a spring-time full of new life and energy.

Yours in Christ,
Richard

In 2024 Wellington Church celebrates:

- **Our current church building being open for worship since 1884 -140 years ago.**
- **Our Forster and Andrews pipe organ played since 1884 – 140 years ago**
- **The Woodlands Church congregation joining us in 1974 – 50 years ago.**
- **The first Hannah Frew Patterson pulpit fall blessed into use in 1984 - 40 years ago.**
- **Our International Welcome Club starting in 2004 - 20 years ago.**
- **The English Language Conversation Corner set up in 2014 – 10 years ago.**

Since Saturday 11 October 1884, people attending Wellington Church on University Avenue, Glasgow, have praised God Presbyterian style.

Rev Richard Baxter invited the congregation to join on Sunday 21 January 2024 at 11am when a special service of celebration was held.

The **Right Rev Rev Sally Foster-Fulton**, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the **Rev Dr Roger Sturrock**, Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow, the **Rev Dr David Sinclair**, former minister of Wellington Church, and other retired ministers who are members of our congregation also officiated that day.



At the luncheon afterwards a huge crowd turned up to celebrate with many old friends returning to join us.





The Moderator cut the cake and received a bouquet from Ann Wilson, one of the longest Wellington members.

140 YEARS OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC AT UNIVERSITY AVENUE WITH OUR FORSTER AND ANDREWS PIPE ORGAN

The organ was built by Messrs. Forster and Andrews of Hull in 1884 at a cost of £1,126 - within the budget of £1,200 (around £186,000 in today's money). At a time when there was still resistance to organs in the Church of Scotland, the congregation had voted 388 out of 406 in favour of installing one.

Our current Director of Music, Alan Kitchen has arranged a **unique recital on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 7:30pm to commemorate 140 years of organ music at Wellington Church.**

There will be anecdotes and much music from present and past organists Alan Kitchen, Paul McNeill and Malcolm Sim. In addition, Alan plans to include a video interview with retired organist Sarah Dawe, who held the post during the major rebuild of the organ in the 1970s. As Alan says; "She is our link with the past." This will be a memorable celebration of music and commemoration. The event will be part of [WestFest 2024](#) in June. Don't miss it! Please put it in your diary now! Free entry. Donations invited to Wellington Special Music Fund.

WestFest

Once again the whole of the West End will be filled with events during the month of June as part of the second WestFest. Two music related WestFest events in Wellington will be:

- Wednesday 12th June
7.30pm 140 years of the Wellington Organ - an evening of organ music and anecdotes from Wellington organists Paul McNeill (1985-92), Malcolm Sim (2003-2005) and Alan



Kitchen (2005 - present). We hope to have a prerecorded video chat with Sarah Longrigg (nee Dawe) who was organist from 1975 - 85, the period which included the last major rebuild of the instrument.

- Friday 14th June 7.30 A recital of soprano duets from choral scholar Rachel McLean and Claire Lumsden. Further details to follow.

Wellington Concert Series

- Saturday 23rd March 1pm: The concert will feature solo lute music, and music for piano trio (piano, violin, cello)
- Friday 26th and Saturday 27th April 7.30pm: Two evenings of French Song. Each of the performers will introduce their songs with a translation and explanation. Please note that these are EVENING concerts
- Saturday 25th May 1pm Concert will feature solo guitar music, and piano duets. (4 hands at the one piano)

Lenten Appeal 2024: **Three charities share insights to their work**

It is now a longstanding tradition at Wellington that we put out a Lenten Appeal to our congregation as part of our journey through lent towards Easter. Over the years, the focus shifted from supporting one cause to supporting multiple causes and a pattern of selecting a local, a national, and an international project emerged. Suggestions for the appeal are presented by members of the congregation to our Mission and Outreach Committee who select the three causes based on various aspects, for example, how often we already supported a specific charity. This year, the choice fell on:

Local: Refuweegee (SCO 46843)
National: CrossReach (SCO 11353) – Bluebell Perinatal Service
International: Embrace the Middle East
(England and Wales charity no. 1076329)

To launch the appeal, we invite representatives from the chosen charities to give a 10-minute presentation during one of our Sunday services early in lent.

This year, on 25th February 2024, we welcomed Selina Hales of Refuweegee, Sheila Gordon of CrossReach, and David McColl of Embrace the Middle East.

Selina shared with us how “Refuweegee” is a composite of the words “Refugee” and “Weegie” (a person from Glasgow). A refuweegee is “a person who upon arrival in Glasgow is embraced by the people of the city and considered a local”. Selina’s charity works with one of the most vulnerable populations in Glasgow,



Picture 1 Selina (left) and Grace

newly arrived refugees who are awaiting a decision on their claim for asylum and are in the meantime generally accommodated in hostel style hotels and challenged to live on £8.86 a week. To put that into context, a bus ticket in Glasgow is £5.40. Refuweegee puts the “embracing” into action by creating support networks of groups of “native” locals around each new arrival, by providing hotel specific food packages, by running a shop that facilitates a dignified way for refugees to receive clothing of their choice, and by offering a vast variety of classes and support services. 150 clients come through Refuweegee’s city centre office every week supported by 15 staff and more than 150 volunteers.



Picture 2 Sheila (centre) with students who attend Wellington

Sheila is a familiar face at Wellington because we have supported different services of CrossReach, the Church of Scotland Social Care arm, before. This time, she came to talk to us about Bluebell Perinatal Service which provides perinatal counselling and therapy for parents and families in Glasgow.

Sheila emphasised that at CrossReach “we believe that people should be able to access counselling services no matter their ability to pay”. Overall, CrossReach has supported 1,900 families and provided 17,300 counselling sessions through Bluebell and other programs.

David took us on a “very quick whistle stop tour” across the Middle East. He shared the story of 74-year-old Virginia, a resident of Aleppo in Syria where years of war and a major earthquake last year had devastating effects. He quoted her saying: “I do not know if there is any hope for the situation to change or for the country to return to what was before; but the church’s care for us no matter what makes us reflect on the goodness and blessings in life.”

We further heard about the medical work of Embrace the Middle East. David illustrated the essential health care services provided to migrant communities in Egypt who often struggle to access Egyptian services and he



Picture 3 David (left) and Shahid

took us to Gaza. He emphasised that it is impossible for any of us to imagine quite how bad the situation in Gaza is and called it the worst humanitarian crisis in recent history. He reported that the basic infrastructures for daily life effectively have collapsed everywhere. David shared how their partner hospital in Gaza city had been hit by missiles, is deprived of supplies, and is cut off electricity except for a few solar panels that are not shattered yet. The hospital is kept going by very dedicated staff who do their utmost to provide care to those in need within these limits. They perform up to 20 surgeries daily and refuse to give up.

David ended his presentation by highlighting how the number of Christians has been in decline in the Middle East for decades and that Christian communities are pictured as suffering persecution. Embrace the Middle East refuses this “narrative of suffering and victimhood”. Christians in the Middle East are not passive victims but active agents of change. David closed saying: “In the midst of challenge, and difficulty, and pressure the way they respond is to serve those around them. And that is why we partner with them, because we believe in the importance of a Christian social witness in the Middle East for bringing hope and transformation to those who are marginalised and excluded.”

Our Lenten Appeal is open until Easter Sunday. Donations can be made in cash on any of the Sundays until then, by cheque, or by BACS (bank details are found on our gift aid form). Donations are equally divided across the three charities that we support.

A full overview of the Lenten Appeal 2024, including clips of the presentations of each representative and a link to the Gift Aid form, is available at:

<https://wellingtonchurch.co.uk/lenten-appeal-2024/>

Wellington Church International Welcome Club

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

The English Language Conversation Corner of Wellington Church celebrated its 10th birthday on Thursday 22 February 2024. We had a party in the Crypt Café where the Conversation reaches high decibel levels every Thursday from 3pm till 4.30pm when we gather there.

Since the Club motto is: HAVE FUN WITH FRIENDS... we did!

More than 50 people chatted at the café tables for the first part of the event. Hosts/Hostesses/ NESSIEs (Native English Speakers Sharing Information and Experience) and their Guests – the internationals who want to practise the English they know at the level they are most comfortable with - talked about anything and everything.



The Conversation Corner members who attended the 10th Birthday celebration.

Then we watched a film which not only captured how the Conversation Corner functions with people meeting up with old friends and making new friends – it had little videos sent from people who were now ‘somewhere else in the world.’ Each person said, in their own way, what the Conversation Corner had meant to them.

Among other things - it helped them: -

Meet new people. Make many good friends. Develop their spoken English. Receive help and support. Feel like Glasgow is their second home. Feel enriched. Exercise their talents. Learn about Scottish culture.

As one person said: ‘These friends will be your long-time friends – enjoy!’

Adah from Kenya congratulated Wellington Church for: ‘a really great initiative to have started the Conversation Corner.’

Lin from China was particularly glad of the Club’s help and Club Host involvement when Covid brought lockdown. This destroyed her chance of completing research for her Master’s degree. However, having been a regular Guest at the Conversation Corner in the Crypt Café she noticed how the ‘seniors’ who had been her Hosts face-to-face one week, were still hosting almost the next week – on ZOOM – and appeared to be perfectly comfortable about that. Her original research was replaced by examining how ‘seniors’ responded to online social space. And she got her Master’s! Now living and working in Edinburgh she said: ‘This means a lot to me personally and professionally.’

The film ended with Dan who had been the Conversation Corner assistant in 2016 saying she’d joined with Shawn (who was the Club’s assistant at the time). ‘At the beginning we were a couple. Now we are a family of four.’

Daughter Michelle recited two Scots poems on the video and gave big hugs and kisses to her little sister Maisie.

Shawn and Dan were married in Wellington Church by Rev David Sinclair and had their reception in the church halls. The family is now settled in Glasgow.

The video was made by another proud Club member – Ahmad Mourad. A media professional when he arrived in Glasgow as an asylum seeker, he is picking up on his professional skills now that he is a British citizen. The film was shown at the ZOOM Conversation Corner on Wednesday 21 Feb and again at the International Club on Friday 23 Feb.

Thanks to Maureen Small, Richard, our Minister, and Rev Tom Moffat who was the preacher on Sunday 3 March, the whole congregation saw the film then, too. As Tom mentioned the work of the International Club and the Conversation Corner are as much a part of our worship and faith in action as our hymns, prayers and reading our Bible.

Anyone interested in joining this lively area of mission and outreach is welcome to join us. Just turn up on a Thursday at 3pm in the Crypt Café, on a Friday at 7pm in the library and on ZOOM any Wednesday by emailing: chat@iwelcomeclub.com

We cannot offer any of the special Birthday Cake made for the Club by a member of the Congregation who prefers to remain nameless, but we can guarantee a warm welcome.

As one participant said: 'I hope others continue to find joy and enrichment ...as I did.'

Christmas 2023

The Church was decorated at Christmas

The congregation joined for a **Christmas lunch**, and a quiz thanks to Glenda. Thanks to all those who helped make a great occasion.



One Sunday morning in a creche



These photos were taken on Sunday 4 February. Wendy was looking after a baby, while Kristen was teaching two sisters the Bible. On the other side of the room, two brothers were playing with Lego blocks. Creche service and Sunday School have resumed.

Fumi Nakabachi



Growing again



Wellington's Garden group has been 'lying fallow' since November. But most have kept in touch by email and occasional crypt lunches during the winter months.

Now as spring is springing, we plan to start our weekly gatherings on a Monday from 2pm till 4pm. Those with plots or raised beds (total nine growing space) can work away, weeding, planting, sowing and eventually (hopefully) harvesting. And when they are ready, they stop for tea and a natter in a corner of the crypt cafe. At their request, the church has bought a rotating composter which we hope will make it easier to create compost out of the crypt cafe vegetable cuttings, weeds, cardboard boxes, Conversation Corner paper cups etc. It is being assembled and should be in the garden sometime in March for the launch of our growing season.

We have had occasional visitors - particularly on sunny days when we've de-camped to sit outside and drink our tea. So should you be passing the church on a Monday between 2pm and 4pm, drop in and say hello. You never know who will be there, and there will always be a cuppa.

Highland Games

No one knew on that wet, wet day when the International Club members went to Perth Highland Games in 2018, what memories that would create.

About 8 of us ventured forth by public transport from Glasgow to Perth to watch the Highland dancing, the tossing of the caber and all the excitement of such a gathering.

From start to finish it rained. We got thoroughly soaked....drookit was the word!



Liz Davidson who led the group to Perth Highland Games with two of the Club Members walking in Scone Palace grounds where the Games were held.

Most remember that. But one Club member who recently had to sit a vital English language exam, chose from the list of possible topics, to write about 'A Scottish Festival.'

At that time, he'd never been to Highland Games and knew nothing about this Scottish traditional event. Everything he saw and heard was new and exciting, interesting and unusual. He got top marks because the memories of the day were so strong and happy for him. So we'll venture forth again this summer and visit the Helensburgh Highland Games on Saturday 1 June, God willing. Who knows what the weather will be like. But we'll be sure to HAVE FUN WITH FRIENDS and maybe even produce a prize-winning essay sometime in the future.

Anyone keen to come with us on any of the Club's summer outings is welcome. Just keep an eye on the notes in the order of service on a Sunday or send a message to:

grace@iwelcomeclub.com to ask for the summer programme when it is published.

WELLINGTON WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS

The Church's Celebrations Sub Committee plans a Wellington Wedding Photos display on Friday 10, Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May this year.

Anyone willing to lend one or two, preferably framed, photographs of Weddings/Baptisms held in Wellington/Woodlands, should make direct contact with Anthea by email

j.acameron@btinternet.com.

This would also include loan of dresses/gowns still in family possession.

The photographs will be displayed on the window ledges in the sanctuary itself. And will be returned promptly after the exhibition.

Congregational Register

Deaths

Elizabeth Kidd Henderson on 13th February 2024

Betty Henderson

Betty died on 13th February aged 95.

Betty joined to Wellington Church when she came to Glasgow to be Headmistress of Westbourne School in 1970. She continued teaching there until 1988 and was greatly loved and admired. She had a special connection with young people, firm but kind, and her mission in life was to ensure young people made the most of their lives. On the day of her funeral, which was also International Woman's Day, Betty was mentioned on Radio Scotland as being an inspirational and respected woman.



She made great contributions to teaching in Scotland and published several texts on the teaching of Mathematics at a secondary school level which were used in Glasgow Schools for many years.

She was a great traveller and had many tales of her travels in Australia and other parts, including Kincardine where her adopted family lived.

She was a faithful attendee at Wellington and her contributions were much appreciated. She accepted her move to Antonine House care home with equanimity and continued to complete The Herald crossword every morning even when her short term memory had considerably deteriorated.

Her thanksgiving service in Wellington included the Glasgow Academy Pipe Band and the Glasgow Academy Senior Girls' Ensemble. The eulogy was from her much loved god-daughters Ann Lovatt & Susan Snowden.

Some memories of Betty from Roger Sturrock and others:
"My memory of her is as a "Grande Dame" who was amongst other things very keen on golf."

"When I visited as her Elder she used to have either golf or tennis on the television and many amicable, heated debates were held over favourite players."

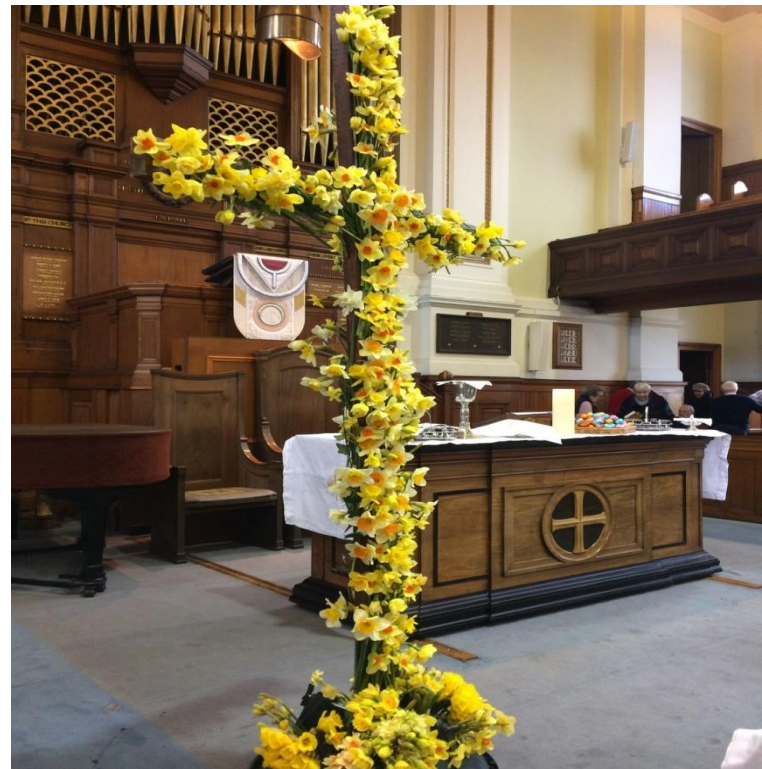
"You were always made to feel valued by Betty and that is a very special quality".



Palm Sunday 24th March at 6.30pm: *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer.

Described as *A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*, and lasting a little over an hour, the piece is for chorus and two soloists, and includes some hymns for congregational singing.

The choir, drawn from the University Chapel, from Wellington Church and from further afield will be directed by Dr Katy Cooper.



Organist is Alan Kitchen and two of our choral scholars, James McIntyre and Michael Longden, will sing the solo parts.

**Happy Easter to
everyone in the
Wellington Church
family**



LENT AND EASTER EVENTS ACROSS THE WEST END CLUSTER

Tuesday 20th February

Wednesdays 21st, 28th February 6th, 13th and 20th March
LENT STUDY based on Christian Aid material

at St John's Renfield

23rd March 10 a.m. to 12 noon

EASTER FUN DAY for families and children

at Partick Trinity

Palm Sunday, 24th March 6.30p.m.

The Crucifixion by John Stainer

A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer

at Wellington

28th March 7.00p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION

at Kelvinbridge

29th March 12 noon to 3.00p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL

at Kelvinside Hillhead

29th March Good Friday 7.00p.m.

SERVICE

at St John's Renfield

29th March Good Friday 7.30p.m.

REFLECTIVE SERVICE

at Partick Trinity

31st March Easter Sunday 9.00a.m.

SUNRISE SERVICE

in the Botanics